

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6912

BILL NUMBER: SB 282

DATE PREPARED: Dec 26, 2001

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Reimbursement of Nonphysician Certified Surgical Assistants.

FISCAL ANALYST: Michael Molnar

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**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires a group or individual accident and sickness insurance policy to provide reimbursement to an insured for intraoperative surgical care services provided by a nonphysician certified surgical assistant. The bill requires a health maintenance organization contract to provide payment for intraoperative surgical care services provided by a nonphysician certified surgical assistant.

Effective Date: July 1, 2002.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill requires an HMO or individual or group accident and sickness policy to directly reimburse a certified surgical assistant (CSA) for services rendered. This bill is not expected to impact state or local health expenditures. Implementation may actually reduce expenditures related to surgical care as CSAs are reimbursed at a lower rate than are surgeons that act in a first assistant role.

Background:

A surgeon may elect to either have another surgeon or a CSA assist in a surgical procedure. The second surgeon can bill their services as a first assistant, however, there is not an industry standard for payment for CSA services. This bill seeks to establish a consistent reimbursement protocol for all staff serving as a first surgical assistant. In addition, surgeons may be more likely to hire CSAs and use fewer surgeons as first assistants if the insurance company paid for these costs directly. In most cases the surgeon is responsible for paying the CSA fee out of the surgeon's own fee.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: See *Explanation of State Expenditures*.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Agencies that utilize HMOs or an individual or group accident and sickness policy as a health care provider.

Local Agencies Affected: Agencies that utilize HMOs or an individual or group accident and sickness policy as a health care provider.

Information Sources: Tom White, Certified Surgical Technologist/Certified First Assistant, (317) 834-4619.